

Divine EXAMPLES of GOD'S SEVERE JUDGMENTS

UPON

SABBATH-BREAKERS,

In their unlavvful Sports, Collected out of several Divine Subjects,

VIZ.

Mr. H. B. Mr. Beard, and the Practice of Piety: A fit Monument for our present Times, &c.

Examples:

1. A Woman near Northampton, the same day the Book for sports was read, upon that Sabbath day having but three pence in her purse, hired a Fellow to fetch a Minstrel, who coming, she with others fell to Dance, and so continued within night, and the same night was got with Child, which at the Birth she murdered, and being detected and apprehended, she before the Justice confess'd it, and withal told the occasion, saying it was her falling to sports on the Sabbath upon reading the Book for sports had brought her to this end, for which unnatural fact she was put to death.

2. At Northampton a young man that was at first of a loose kind of life, but after by the example of other good people had begun to reform his loose life in the Observation of the Sabbath, but hearing the Book of sports he fell again to prophaning the Sabbath: at an Assizes there when the Judges were in the Church being taken as he was picking a Pocket, he confess'd that up to the publishing the said Book of sports he was encouraged to wickedness, and for this suffered death.

3. A Maid at Enfield near London hearing of the Liberty given by this Book, said, she would dance, and on the Sabbath day danced so long that within two or three days she dyed.

4. Upon Asy day, being the Lord's day, a Maid of the Minister of Cripplegate Parish London, was Married to a Widdower having three Children, and upon this day they kept their Marriage Feast in the Church-houle joyning to the Church, and spent all the Afternoon in Dancing, but in one Week after, the Plague began in that Parish in the new Married mans Houle, and within one Month the Man, his Wife, and two Children dyed; thus the Plague began in that Parish.

5. In the same Month a Minister Rector of a Church in London, upon the Saturday would go with two Neighbours, booz Companions, to be jovial the next day: they conditioned he should bestow a Sermon upon them; they on the Lord's day spent the Forenoon idly, and in the Afternoon this Minister with his Neighbours visited a London Minister that had a Benefice there, for whom he Preach. Sermon being ended they are invited to the Ministers Houle to a Bottle of Sack; they drank so long that the two Neighbours tongues began to fail them. That night their Minister could not sleep and was struck with a sudden coldness, and with much ado being returned to London, he dyed before the next Lord's day.

6. On Jan. 25. 1634. being the Lord's day in the time of the great Frost, fourteen young men presuming to play at Foot-ball upon the Ice on the River Trent near Gainsborough were all drowned.

7. At Dover the same Lord's day the Book was read, one in St. James's Parish that played on a Kit, with it called together divers, and that very day was struck by Divine hand, and within two days dyed.

8. At Tarrow in Suffolk, one made a Feast on the Sabbath day to his Friends for joy of the publishing this Book of sports on the Lord's day, and the next day was prest to death by the sudden fall of a stack of Faggots.

9. A Herring in Suffolk this Book being read on the Lord's day, the next day an honest man, one Tomkin being on his way, his Neighbour calling him if he would dance wth him the next Sunday, to whom Tomkin answered, take heed thou be not dancing in Hell before that day, or before it be long and by the next Week this scotter and two of his Family dyed.

10. Feb. 9. 1634. being upon the Lord's day, an Apothecaries man in Lime street London, with another Companion rid to Bawdon to make merry, and returning home drunk, near High-Gate met a Tinker, to whom offering abt the Tinker strikes his Hat, the other bids him through, which he did with his Rapier, the Tinker fell down dead, and both were apprehended and sent to Newgate.

11. At Thornton near Wetherby at the publishing this Book, they prepared for a Summer-ale upon the Sabbath day, and a lusty young Wench was chosen Purveyor for Cakes, and giving on the Sabbath to the Mill passing by a Hedge in the way the ale was immediately struck and fell into the Ditch, where she was found dead; there lay all the Lord's day, the Coroner being sent for on the Monday she was carried to her Grave. And the effect wrought so upon the people, that no Summer-Ale was kept; but the May-pole which before they had set up they took down.

12. In Dorsetshire at a Wake on the Lord's day, in Otley Parish it Rained, two men sitting at drink in the Night fell out, and being parted, the one a little after finding his fellow sitting by the fire wth his back towards him, comes behind him with a Hatchet, Chimes him down the back, so as his Bowels fell out the Murtherer being pursued leapt into a River and drowned himself.

13. One Wrich at Kingston that rejoyced much at the suspending of his Minister, for not reading the Book of sports, saying he hoped shortly to see them all so serv'd: was in a day or two after struck with a dead Pulse all over the one side, and with Blindness and Dumbness, that he could neither go, nor see, nor speak and lay a Fortnight and then dyed.

14. In Moor-fields near London, divers Youths playing at Cat on the Sabbath day, two of them fell out, and the one hitting the other under the Ear with his Cat he fell down for dead in the place, the other was sent to Prison; but the dead after a time recovering, the Prisoner was releas'd, which may be a warning to Youths prophaners.

15. April the 18. 1635. one travelling with three other from London to Morden Head on the Saturday, the three spent the Sabbath there, but he would travel on his way contrary to the Latitudes direction whom he served; he rode to Henley in the Morning and there heard the Sermon and fell to Travel in the Afternoon but in the way leading his Horse gently down a plain difficult and even way, his Horse suddenly fell and broke both his fore legs, the man was amazed at the immediate hand of God as he after confess'd to his three fellow Travellers that overtook him, and fad all the good Sermons that ever he had heard did never so work upon his Conscience as this thing did, and that example shd for ever be a warning to him.

16. In 1634 one Edward Swindell, a Gentleman, having been pain'd in his feet, and being upon his recovery, whereupon one said to him he was glad to see him so nimble. Swindell replied, that he doubted not but to dance about the Chalk pit the next Sabbath day: but before he mov'd out of that place he was suddenly struck with a feebleness and dizzyneſs in his head, that being carried to an House he dyed before the Lord's day came.

17. In Glouceſhire one being very forward to advance a summer meeting wherein his Son was to be flickler, went himself to see it and there beholding it he fell down dead and never saw another Sabbath.

18. A Miller at Chelmsford, near Glouceſter, would needs contrary to the admonitions both of his Minister in private,



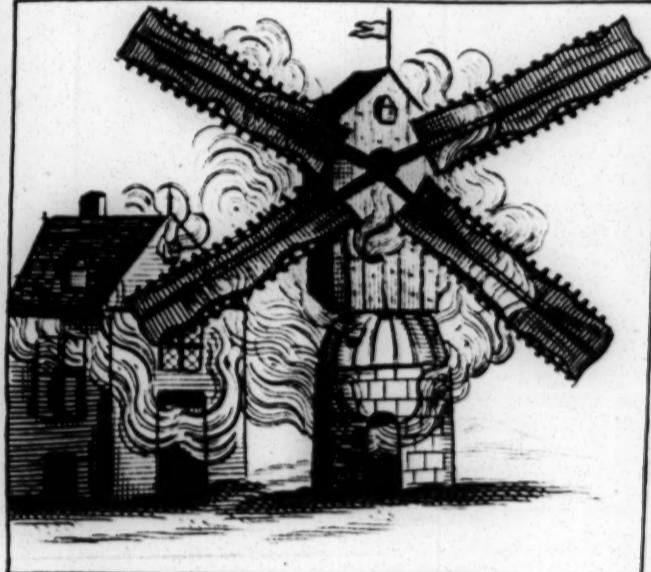
Numb. 15. 36.
Remember that thou keep e holy Sabbath Day,
The profane Iſraelite, that durſt assay,
In gathering sticks, to breake the Sabbath day,
Is fonde to death, for like Contumacy
The Lord hath sworne, that every Soule shall dye.



Several Young men playing at foot-ball
on the Ice upon the Lord's day are all Drown'd



A Woman and her two Daughters pill and dry
flax on the Lord's day, are all burnt



A Millers House and Mill Burnt etc.

Whitunday last in the Afternoon, two Fellows meeting at the football, the one killed the other.

26. At Oxford on the Sabbath day, one Bald Hawks a Butcher, would needs go into his field with an hatchet and scovel to mend his ditch: his Wife diswaded him what she could, being the Sabbath day, but he said he would go make an end of his work, which he did, for suddenly he was struck dead in his ditch, and so made an end of his work, and his life together.

27. Also at Oxford a Carpenter undertaking to mend a Stage in St. John's College on the Saturday night, for the finishing whereof he must of necessity spend some part of the Lord's day morning, that the Stage might be ready against the Munday following, he that night fell backward from the Stage, being not far from the ground, and brake his neck, and so ended his life in a fearful Tragedy.

28. A young man near Bow, going to swim in the River Essex side, on the Lord's day in the Afternoon, was drowned.

29. Two boys of St. Albans, going to Verulam's Pounds, a mile off to swim on the Lord's day, July 12. one of them was drowned, and the other hardly escaped.

30. At Romsey in Suffolk, a tall man on the Lord's day going with others to swim, and being advertised and warned of a hole in the water, he swar that there was no place there could drown him, but by and by on a sudden he was missing, being now under water and so drowned.

31. On Septemb. 13. 1635. being the Lord's day, two young men of the Parish of St. Dunstan's in the West, London, going to swim, were both drowned.

32. At Limerick, one Master Powles, January 1634. on the Lord's day serving a Writ of sub pons (and that of purpose on that day as is credibly reported) upon one Mr. Shaws, a Gentleman, this he did in the Church yard, so soon as they were come out of the Church: Mr. Shaws thereupon told him, I thought you had been an holier man than I, to do this upon this day; he replied, I hope I am never a whit the more dishonest, or less holy for that; having spoken this, he suddenly fell down dead, and spake not a word more, his Wife seeing this was suddenly struck with sickness.

33. A Fellow in Summereshire being to make a Tent upon the Lord's day, for a Fair that was to be kept upon the Munday following, said to one on the Saturday, that they would rear it to morrow, to the next day which was the Lord's day, being drunk, he died the same day roaring.

34. In June 1635. on the Lord's day, the Tapster and Chamberlain of the Queens head in Southwark, rid into Kent to be merry: and having drunk liberally, riding homewards, the one of them fell from his Horse and broke his neck.

35. Also in June 1635. and as some report the very same Lords day, in Southwark, at the Red Lion, near St. George's Church in the Afternoon, a man with another late drinking so long, that the other about six of the Clock departing, fell a sleep, to he never awaked again.

These Examples were Collected from Beard's Theater of God's Judgments, and the Practice of Piety.

36. A Noble man in France, that used to go a hunting on the Sabbath day; his Wife brought forth a Child with a Dogs head.

37. At Knysna in France, a covetous Woman used on the Sabbath day to dry and pill Flax, and would not be warned that her Flax took fire two several Lord's days, but on the third Sabbath, she and her two Children were burnt to death.

38. Some in France at their Husbandry upon the Sabbath, have been struck with Thunder, some had their Bodies and Bones burnt with visible fire, and consumed to ashes; Scaffold at Playes on the Sabbath day have fallen, and many have been wounded; some killed out right.

39. In 1633. at Paris Garden, upon the Sabbath day, a great Company were gathered to behold a fort of Bear baiting, the Scaffold suddenly brake, and Eight were slain out-right; and many more wounded.

40. A Husbandman grinding Corn upon the Lord's day, had his Meal burnt to Ashes.

41. Another carrying Corn on this day, had his Barn and all his Corn therein burnt with fire from Heaven.

42. Stratford upon Avon, was twice on the same day twelve months (being the Lord's day) almost consumed with fire, chiefly for prophaning that day.

43. The Inhabitants of Toterton in Devonshire, were great prophaners of this day, of which their godly Minister did admonish them; and not long after his death, on the third of April 1598. By a sudden fire, the whole Town was almost consumed, to the number of 400. Houses, and 50. Persons in the Flames.

44. And once since in 1612. the same Town was almost consumed again; a sure token of God's anger.

Royal King Solomon hath a true saying; that Judgments are prepared for sinners. Prov. 19. 29. And in this short view you may behold Judgments executed.

The Lord hath made his day known by his Judgments, Numb. 15. 32. &c. To teach the Inhabitants of the World righteousness.

These Tragical spectacles of divine Justice proclaim the propagation of the Lord's most sacred day, a crying sin. Which was confirmed by the whole State in Parliament in two famous Statutes in the First of Carol. and in the Third of Carol. and two Antient Acts in Hen. and Edw. 6.

To Homilies, Common-prayer-book, Canons, Articles, and Instructions conclude the same.

Our late Sovereigns of blessed memory King James and King Charles in the first year of both their Reigns in the several books of Common-prayer, and order for the publick Feasts set out by their Royal Authoritatis for the aversion and casting of those dreadful Plagues which then swallowed up many thousands, Confess that among other sins, the prophaning of the Sabbath, and not keeping holy the Lord's day, was one chief cause why these two great judgments came upon us.

God grants that these punishments of some may be a warning to us all, and as Cyprian his Antient Author well saith, he is ever audacious, who strives to pass over there where he hath seen another to have failed; he is outrageously bold-brag who is not struck with fear, when he beholds another perish in that curse which he is running; he loves his own safety, who takes warning by the dangers of others; and he alone is a prudent man who is made wise by the Rains of other men.

May these Judgments on some, become Remedies to raze off who are sick of the self same sin. Which is the end of the punishment.